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Kansas Politics, &c.

[From the Lyons (N. Y.) Republican.]
Resistance to Despotism.

The beginning of tyranny should bring forth prompt and efficient resistance. Where despotism seeks to lay its violent hands on the rights of individuals or the liberties of a people, then and there physical force is lawful to prevent it, and should be employed. The king, the constable and the private man can alike be lawfully resisted unto the death, in attempts to seize the person or the liberties of another in England and in other free countries. Such resistance is not only lawful, but it is a duty freemen owe to the infancy, the age and the womanhood of the present, and to the sacred demands of posterity.

In a free country the actual practical government consists in the administration of the law, as prescribed in constitutions, in statutes conformable to constitutions, and as ascertained by settled adjudications of the courts. Despotism consists in the exercise of power by the will of those having means of enforcement. All acts of encroachment upon the rights and liberties of any one or any number not authorized by law, are despotic and tyrannous, and call for resistance commensurate to the injury and the danger. Death, present death, is therefore the right remedy for a people whose liberties are assailed by lawless power, whether the assault comes from invasion from a Vandal horde, such as once overran the fairest portions of Europe, and such as have threatened Kansas, or from the intrigues and machinations of Caesar, Caligula, Nero or Philip, such as by degrees and stealthy steps subverted the liberties of ancient Greece and Rome.

Our fathers (and British subjects too they were) understood this, and their commentary was marked upon the tea-party in Boston Harbor; it was engraved upon the retreat from Concord and the route from Lexington. The student of American history is challenged to find in the details of the wrongs of the mother country against the colonies, any acts of tyranny or oppression to compare with the despotism practiced upon the people of Kansas by the present administration of our national government. There is one wrong prominent in the recitals of the Declaration of Independence of kindred, or rather identical character, namely, forcing the institution of domestic slavery upon them; but the other enormities, justifying war and bloodshed in defence, are as molehills to mountains compared with the murders, the robberies, the rapine, the burnings, the imprisonments, the unjust condemnations and sufferings, inflicted upon the people of Kansas for the purpose of forcing on them institutions of government which they abhor.

Old John Bull said to the colonies, "We claim the right to tax you. You must pay duties on tea and stamped paper." Our fathers replied, "This is unlawful power you attempt to set over us, and we will brook the eternal devil as soon." Concord, Lexington, Long Island, White Plains, Quebec, Saratoga, Monmouth, Yorktown and many other battle-fields, bore witness to the earnestness with which they resisted. All these things began in first steps by individual freemen resisting unlawful power. We see the blessings resulting from the triumphs of the spirit of freemen then.

Do we mean to charge despotism on James Buchanan? We do. We prove it thus: The people of Kansas have the right of self-government from the time there was enough of them to form a political community. From Mr. Buchanan's position it became his duty to aid them in the

formation of their government. Governors and other officers were sent there, bound by law, and instructed by the President to do the needful acts and to protect the people in the free exercise of their rights. The people were promised by authority of James Buchanan that they should be protected in the free exercise of their choice in the formation of a Constitution.

All the while it was his secret purpose to establish slavery there, whether the people would or not. The Governors sent there by him, Walker and Stanton, (acting Governor,) pro-slavery men and his friends, endeavored to obey his instructions as they had been spoken and written. They were too honest and too manly to follow his secret and dishonorable meaning to effect his purpose by indirect, if he could not accomplish it by open means.

A convention was called to frame a constitution. This Convention was not elected by the people of Kansas nor in pursuance of their authority, but notoriously by strangers who were enemies to the freedom of Kansas. This Convention was presided over by a renegade Yankee, a tool and minion of the President, known to people of Western New York as an unfortunate engineer who had obtained a federal appointment in Kansas and gone there without his family.

The adoption or rejection of this Constitution fixing slavery upon Kansas was not submitted to the people of Kansas, but was withheld from them, and a single question was so contrived as purposely to prevent the larger portion of the people from voting, as they had been cut off from voting for members of the convention. An election (or what is not properly called so) of State officers and Legislature under this instrument, mis-called a Constitution, was so ordered that the presiding officer had power over the whole subject of the Constitution. False, fraudulent and forged returns were forwarded to the presiding officer, Calhoun; fictitious names by hundreds were added to returns after their receipt, to produce the results secretly desired by the President and his pro-slavery friends. It is sought to install men in office over the people of Kansas as Governors, Legislators, Judges, &c., with power over life and property, of course, by these acts of Calhoun. As soon as he, Calhoun, found he had done sufficient to secure the objects of the President and the pro-slavery party he surrounded himself with the military force of the United States, kept in Kansas to overawe and subdue the spirit of freedom and to protect ruffianism, and under the protection of this force he marched out of Kansas. He fled to Washington. Walker and Stanton, astonished at the bold depravity of these measures and not willing to become the tools of the President in carrying them out, were recalled, one obliged to resign, the other displaced. The President, in the face and in defiance of the fullest evidence of all these frauds and villainies, declared the people of Kansas rebels and traitors. He is using the utmost of his influence to induce Congress to force this Constitution upon the people of Kansas, though every man in the nation, of common information, knows that it is against the will of an immense majority, and though the Governor of his own appointment, his political and personal friend, has assured him in an official and responsible communication, that a very large majority of the people of Kansas are irreconcilably opposed to it. This is not the act of any law or authority, but only by the will of James Buchanan. He is keeping a large portion of the army in Kansas to overawe this majority and to subdue them if they resist his will. This is not the administration of any law or the assertion of any principle of free government. It proceeds entirely from the will of James Buchanan; and this is the essence and substance of high-handed despotism and is precisely that kind of oppression which "maketh a wise man mad."

Would we have freemen resist the exercise of this power unto the death? Yes. It can acquire no legality from any act of Congress. The moment that Calhoun shall set his foot on Kansas soil, the first free man who meets him should do whatever is necessary to render him powerless. The moment the would-be Governor, Legislators and others seek to avail themselves of the frauds and forgeries of Calhoun by assuming authority over Kansas by virtue of his acts, they should meet the fate due to all

usurpers. And if James Buchanan should attempt to do personally what he is inciting his tools and minions to do in Kansas, some freeman's eye should draw a true aim upon him. It would be lawful for a freeman's sword to stop him!

Such an act would but anticipate, it would not avert that "vengeance of history" which surely awaits him. But would we divide the Union? Certainly not. We would consolidate and perpetuate the Union. Immediately after our southern brethren record an overt act of disunion, the slaves and horses will slip off from the northern tier of the slave empire. All near the northern boundaries will run away and the rest will be carried away and sold to save them. The lands will be in market at very low rates. These States will be settled by free men who will join the Union to stay in the Union. The next tier of States will follow through the effect of an uncontrollable cause, and there will be a Republic and a Union that many will like to come into, and nobody will threaten to get out of. This process of consolidating and perpetuating the Union had better commence as soon as the chivalry can make up their minds to put in execution their long repeated threats. The sooner the better.

Liberty and Law.

"Judge, did you send me this order to take John Freeman and lock him up in that old house?"

"Yes; why haven't you done it?"

"Because it isn't lawful, and folks say he will have a right to shoot me or knock my brains out if I go to do it."

"I can send somebody to help you."

"Well, but it is not right. He hasn't done anything to be shut up for, and it is no lawful prison. Besides, he will lose his health and property, and his family will suffer if he gets shut up there."

"Now, as to his family, you have no concern about them. I want him to lose his health and I and my friends want his property and mean to have it; and as to its being against the law, I know that too, but he can get a writ of habeas corpus and be discharged and set at liberty."

"Ah! but that will take some time; and after he has lost his health and his property, and his family have suffered or gone to the poor house, he won't be paid for all this, and this don't seem to make it all right."

"Do you pretend to be a democrat, and read the papers? Do you see that our party have agreed pretty much all around that it is right to force a constitution on Kansas they don't want, because they can better it hereafter and make it suit them?"

"Yes, I acknowledge this is pretty much the same case, but I can't see it to be right for all that, and I can't do this. You must give me my wages and let me go."

"Yes, go, and if you talk in this way the first I hear of you, you will be a Black Republican. But go, go." (Judge solus.) "I wonder what Buchanan need to have pushed us into this scrape for? The biggest dunce amongst us sees it is wrong, and we can't apply his principles to anything we can get up without danger of broken heads."—26.

A "Chivalric" Argument.

We learn that a cannon ball, called a "six-pounder," was taken from out of a log at the saw-mill in this city one day last week, where it has been imbedded ever since the memorable battle of Osawatomie, on the morning of the 30th of August, 1856, when about three hundred or more pro-slavery hounds from Missouri, commanded by the Congressional aspirant ruffian of Independence, Mo., Gen. John W. Reed, made a descent upon the peaceable inhabitants of this city. We presume it was one of the "peaceful remedies," used by that murder-loving party to force slavery upon Kansas, and should they ever come here again in the above manner, it shall be returned to them in the shape of a "peaceful reminiscence," convincing them of the importance of freedom. For the valuable services rendered by Gen. Reed in the cause of ruffianism, the Administration ought to give him a consulship—his chance for Congressional honors are very slim. Many Kansas ruffian robbers have been provided with places abroad, and as Gen. Reed has strong claims to distinguished ruffianism, surely he should be "honored" away from home. Anything to get them out of the country, so that their offensive smell may die away.—Osawatomie Herald.

[From the Crusader of Freedom.]
Autobiography of Gen. James H. Lane.

At the earnest solicitation of friends and in order to vindicate the character of gallant soldiers who have fought with me in Mexico and Kansas, and more especially to do justice to the real actors in the struggle against Federal and Missouri usurpation in the Territory, I have consented to write a narrative of my life, in which I shall endeavor to embody a history brief, but faithful, of the events with which I have been connected or associated in an official capacity. Incompetent as I am for a task so important, I yet feel in honor and in duty bound to undertake it. To avoid the appearance of egotism, I shall speak in the third person.

James Henry Lane was born on the bank of the Ohio river on the 22d of June, 1814. His father, Amos Lane, emigrated to the West from New York, as early as 1804, first settling in Ohio, and from thence removing to Kentucky and finally to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He was a lawyer of eminence and one of the most eloquent speakers of his day; was Speaker of the first and second House of Representatives in the State of Indiana; served several sessions of Congress under the Administration of Jackson and Van Buren, of whom he was the zealous and unfaltering supporter. It is said that he, in connection with two other Democrats, held a "State Convention" in Indiana—one acting as President, the second as Secretary and Mr. Lane as the audience—and unanimously nominated Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. This was among the first nominations that Old Hickory received from a State Convention, and was published far and near at the time as an important movement and assembly.

His mother, Mary Lane, formerly Mary Foote, was a native of New England, a woman of rare gifts and acquirements, a fine poet, and a model wife and mother.

She was for forty years a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

His father died in 1850 and his mother in 1853.

They had seven children, of whom four were boys, John F., George W., James Henry and William. John F. graduated at West Point, and fell in the Florida war. He had the command, at the time, of a regiment of Creek and Cherokee Indians whom he organized himself. He brought several tribes of Indians from Georgia, Florida, Ohio and Indiana to the Territory of Kansas. Gen. Jessup said that he was the ablest man of his age; Gen. Jackson used to call him his son. Webster and Clay paid him complimentary mention in the Senate. He studied law under Wm. Wirt, but never practiced his profession. He made many important discoveries in science.

George W. Lane is a prominent politician in the National Democratic Party of Indiana. He has held many important positions, and is regarded as a man of mind and integrity. He now resides at Aurora, Indiana.

William died at an early age. Of his sisters, all of whom attained womanhood and were married to gentlemen of high standing, only one survives, Mary, the wife of G. P. Beul, Esq., of Lawrenceburg, Ind. The subject of this memoir was educated in boyhood by his mother.

His parents at that time were comparatively poor, and both were working, with praiseworthy energy, to extricate themselves and family from the difficulties which beset married people in that condition. While his father travelled the circuit, his mother, in addition to her family duties, kept boarders and taught school at her own cabin. She superintended his education, which she had begun, after he had passed to other tutors with prayerful and never flagging solicitude.

After finishing his education, he studied law in his father's office and practiced in partnership with him. At the age of seventeen Mr. Lane went into business with his brother in law, and for thirteen consecutive years, was industriously engaged in commercial pursuits—packing pork, slaughtering hogs, selling goods, speculating and forwarding produce down the river. He made several trips in a flat boat himself to New Orleans.

While thus engaged he was equally interested in public affairs. He made his first public speech in favor of General Jackson in his third Presidential campaign. He was then in his 18th year.

Shortly after attaining his major-

ity he was elected a member of the City Council, to which office he was repeatedly reelected, owing perhaps to his zealous efforts in behalf of every scheme for increasing the prosperity of the place.

In 1845 he was nominated by the Democratic Party of his county a member of the State Legislature; and in the winter of the same year, his name was before the State Democratic Convention as a candidate for the nomination for Lieutenant Governor. He was defeated by one vote, by P. C. Dunning.

At the age of 21 Mr. Lane joined the Masonic Order, of which ancient and honorable fraternity he continued a member. For many years he was Master of the Lodge at Lawrenceburg, and for twelve months Warden of the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana.

He was married in the autumn of 1842 to Miss Mary E. Baldrige, grand daughter of General Arthur St. Clair, of Westmoreland County, Penn. By this marriage he had four children, of whom three now survive.

The eldest, Ellen, is 11 years of age; James H., Jr. is 9; Anna died in Kansas, and Jane is four years old. Mrs. Lane is a woman of great personal charms, accomplished, of pleasing manners; she was a good mother and a loving wife.

They lived happily together for nearly eleven years, when Mr. Lane resolved to emigrate to Kansas. She accompanied him from Washington City with their children. Her husband squatted on a claim adjoining Lawrence and built a log cabin on it. Accustomed to the conveniences and refinements of a city life, Mrs. Lane found it difficult to endure the hardships, annoyances and inconveniences of a pioneer's lot. She desired to return, and went to her home in Indiana. Mr. Lane was interested in Kansas; had determined to remain; as, to return to Indiana would look like giving up the contest. An estrangement was the result of this occurrence, without, however, acrimonious feelings on the part of either.

In the Spring of 1846 the war broke out between the United States and Mexico. Before the President's requisition reached Indiana, Mr. Lane had organized and equipped a company of volunteers, of whom he was unanimously elected Captain.

[From the Kansas Crusader of Freedom.]
Slaves and Peasantry.

A gentleman at whose house we lodged one night, in Ray County, Mo., in a conversation on the "Peculiar Institution," asserted that it was his sincere conviction that the slaves of the South were much better off than the peasantry of the Eastern States, and asked us (not knowing who we were) if our own observation did not corroborate his belief. We answered that as there was no peasantry in the Eastern States we could not make the comparison. Well, then, he would say the laboring classes. We told him that instead of being worse off than the slaves they were better off than the slaveholders. In the first place, they are free; and the slaveholder is a slave to his slaves. That's a fact, said another slaveholder, a man's bound hand and foot if he's got a lot of niggers. He can't turn round but they're stealing or destroying 'em, or forgettin' their work, and it's mighty hard business to get an overseer that's worth anything in this country. "That's so," said my host.

In many of the Southern States, the slaveholders live in cabins which a Northern working man would not put his horse in—away from civilization, society and the educational advantages which attend every old established (if a free) community. We have often seen them in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama in their rude uncomfortable sties, and smiled at their self-complacent pity of the Northern poor. The paupers of the Northern States constitute a very small part of Northern population.—Take away from it the foreign mendicant, the drunkard and the leafer, and you reduce it to a company so insignificant in point of numbers that it ceases to attract attention. The North is not responsible for all of the paupers in the Free States. Contrast her native born paupers with the paupers of the South—we mean the white paupers of the Slave States—and you will find that slavery brings poverty to the non-slaveholder, with a certainty and universality that is terrible, and admirable, too; for it punishes the tyrant for his offences here and proves that it is impossible to be a Despot without incurring an immediate penalty for it.

Talk of the Northern poor! Why, in that very county we saw families of poor whites,—filthy, ragged and penniless,—huddled together in dirty log cabins and living in the unhealthy bottom lands, because they were too poor to purchase a good farm, and too ignorant or prejudiced to emigrate to a Free State.

Every Northern man should resent this cant about the paupers of the Free States as a personal insult. It is one of the aristocratical assumptions which are the peculiar characteristics of the Southern States—States where they still talk of family 'blood' and 'position,' as if humanity had not outlived those miserable notions.

Let us tolerate no distinctions but the difference which superior intellect, virtue and education make; and these are never arrogant or assuming, but only the counterfeit imitations of them. Down with the Black Aristocracy!

Sketches in the House of Representatives.

Here comes Parrott, the delegate from "Bleeding Kansas!" a tall, slight man with a pale face and a fine Roman profile. His hair is of a glossy black, and his eyes are dark and restless, moving constantly from place to place. How calmly he passes along—how quiet and unobtrusive is his manner; yet we do not believe that the thunders of the Inquisition itself could turn that man from the path on which he had determined to tread!

The member whose arm is passed through his, and who is talking to him in such a low, earnest voice, is the noted Eli Thayer of Massachusetts. People say that they look alike, and truly one can trace a resemblance in the expression of their faces.

Thayer is a noble-looking man; nature has placed her unmistakable patent of royalty on his brow. Observe that high, white forehead and those brilliant deep-set eyes, the unconscious majesty of his port, and the quiet dignity which pervades his every motion! His wavy beard, which is very long, and of a jet black, flows luxuriantly down over his breast, presenting a strong contrast to the closely shaven chins and trimly cut whiskers of many of the honorable members.—Life Illustrated.

A Beautiful State of Things.

Had the whole Lecompton Constitution been submitted to the people, the adherents of the [Topeka] organization would doubtless have voted against it, because, if successful, they would thus have removed the obstacle out of the way of their own revolutionary Constitution.—President's Message.

Well, what if they had voted against it? Wouldn't it have been entirely just and proper? Wouldn't they have had a perfect right to do so? Things have certainly come to a beautiful pass when a President, elected on account of his special devotion to popular sovereignty, cites the evident determination of the people to vote in a certain way as illustrating the impropriety and absurdity of allowing them to vote at all.

It would have been an awful crime, to be sure, if the opponents of the Lecompton Constitution had voted against it, in the event of its having been submitted to the people. The pith of the President's argument on this point is that the Lecompton Constitution was rightfully withheld from the people of Kansas, because they would have voted it down if it had been submitted to them. If Mr. Buchanan possessed a particle of honor or manliness his face would be lost in a sea of blushes whenever he recalled this contemptible flummery.—Louisville Journal.

In the Senate there are 37 Democrats, 20 Republicans, and 5 Native Americans. In all 68 members. The House consists of two hundred and thirty-four members.—The Delegates have no vote. Of this number 128 are Democrats, 92 Republicans, and 14 Native Americans.

It was a maxim of Gen. Jackson's: "Take time to deliberate; but when the hour for action arrives, at once thinking and go in!"

What did the cat say, as she looked out of the window when the ark got aground?

"Is that at a rat?"

Latest advices from Salt Lake represent the Mormons as preparing for a vigorous campaign against the United States troops.